

09/604,218

A1  
Cont

that are needle punched (also referred to as needling) into the mass of fibers 10.

A base material like a felt material may be used, or the fibers 10 may have a sufficiently high density that eliminates any necessity of a base material.

### IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 16-19 without prejudice.

Please rewrite claims 1, 3, 8 and 11 as set forth below in clean form.

- S. 1. 1  
A2
1. (Amended) A friction material with improved wear resistance and thermal conductivity, comprising:
- a functionally graded material including a composite material having heat and wear resistant fibers therein impregnated with a resin; and
  - a plurality of heat conducting elements situated within said functionally graded material in an orientation and a varying concentration wherein said heat conducting elements transfer heat away from a first friction surface of said functionally graded material to a second non-engaging surface.

- A3
3. (Amended) A friction material as set forth in claim 1, wherein said plurality of heat conducting elements are positioned substantially normal to said first friction surface of said functionally graded material.

- A4
8. (Amended) A friction material as set forth in claim 1, wherein said heat conducting elements comprise a greater density on said first friction surface than said second non-engaging surface.